THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Registrar of Newspaper for India does not maintain any statistical data in respect of such international editions.

(c) Newspaperrs are not required to file separate declaration for international editions under the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867.

(d) No sanction of foregin exchange is required for starting an international edition as such.

(e) Does not arise.

New Agricultural Price Policy

1460. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a new agricultural price policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The long term agricultural price policy is under prepartion.

Incentives for postings in Tribal Areas

1461. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to introduce special incentives to encourage officials to seek postings in tribal areas : and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) As a measure to upgrade administration in tribal areas the Seventh Finance Commission had rcommended payment of compensatory allowance to the transferable State Government employees posted in tribal areas. For the purpose, that Commission made an award of Rs 30.71 crores for a period of five years (1979-84) in respect of 13 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Eighth Finance Commission recommended an amount of Rs. 30 crores for the continuation of the incentive. Excluding the share of revenue surplus states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu an amount of Rs 19.27 crores for a period of four years (1985-89) will be given to 13 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Purchase of Cotton in Andhra Pradesh

1462. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of cotton is lying with the cotton growers in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to purchase cotton from the growers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ministry-wise Allocation for the Development of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

1463. SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the Ministry-wise allocation for the development of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period including current financial year;

(b) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has fully utilised the funds earmarked during the last five years for the development/ upliftment of Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, whether the fund has been converted to some other heads to avoid the lapse of the fund, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for from concerned Centre Ministries and Andhra Pradesh Government and the same will be laid on the Table of the House later.

Import of scrap and sponge iron

1464. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the quantity of scrap and sponge iron proposed to be imported by Government during the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): It is proposed to import 14 lakh tonnes of scrap and 7 lakh tonnes of Sponge Iron/Hot Briquetted Iron during 1986-87.

Import of billets etc.

1465. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of finished steel like billets, bars, structurals etc. proposed to be imported by Government during 1986-87.

(b) whether Government propose to increase the import duty on such items ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The tentative import Plan for 1986-87 provides for import of approximately one million tonnes of finished carbon steel. This includes 0.2 million tonnes of Tin Mill Black Plate for manufacture of tinplate. Import of 0 54 million tonnes of billets is also proposed in addition for meeting the requirements of special sections, bars & rods, structurals, jute bailing hoops and Railways.

(b) and (c) No change in import duty for such items of steel is envisaged at present. However, some of the items like billets enjoy limited duty exemption for specific periods. On expiry of the periods the normal rate of duty will be leviable unless the exemptions are extended/ renewed.